

Note, this Amendment and Reply is being submitted in a form required under the amended rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, two (2) sheets containing the marked-up claims corresponding to the substituted claims, are attached hereto.

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6, 8-11, and 16-22.

Please substitute the following replacement claims for the corresponding pending claims in the application:

7. An apparatus for evaluating the integrity of a seal on a liquid-filled container, comprising:

a tank;

a clamp having a first member and a second member between which a container is engaged, the clamp being positioned with respect to the tank such that at least a portion of a container properly engaged in the clamp will extend into the tank;

a seat adapted to support a portion of a container to establish a desired position of a container with respect to the clamp, wherein the desired portion of a container is such that at least a portion of a container supported by the seat will extend into the tank;

a plate having an aperture, the seat being defined by a marginal edge of the aperture wherein the marginal edge is tapered to define a frustaconical shape; and,

a ram and cylinder operatively connected to the clamp such that the clamp can be

clampingly engaged about a container by relative movement between the ram and the cylinder, the first member is connected to one of either the ram or the cylinder such that the first member is displaced toward the second member by relative movement between the ram and the cylinder.

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12. An apparatus for evaluating the integrity of a seal on a liquid-filled container, comprising:

- a tank;
- a clamp having a first member and a second member between which a container is engaged, the clamp being positioned with respect to the tank such that at least a portion of a container properly engaged in the clamp will extend into the tank;
- a seat adapted to support a portion of a container to establish a desired position of a container with respect to the clamp, wherein the desired portion of a container is such that at least a portion of a container supported by the seat will extend into the tank;
- means for making an opening in a wall of the container wherein the means is positioned such that the opening can be made while the container is in the seat; and,
- a ram and cylinder operatively connected to the clamp such that the clamp can be clampingly engaged about a container by relative movement between the ram and the cylinder, the first member is connected to one of either the ram or the cylinder such that the first member is displaced toward the second member by relative movement between the ram and the cylinder.

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